

Monthly Update

Aug 2024

www.ve3osh.com

Club Executive

President – **Derek VE3TKE**
Vice President: **Peter VA3PKM**
Secretary: **Neil VA3NH**
Treasurer: **Bob VE3HIX**
Membership Secretary: **Thomas VE3PDK**

Committee's

Repeater & Technical -Trustee: **Daren VE3NMD**
Website: **Laird VE3LKS**
Club Examiner: **Aldo VA3AG**
Newsletter: **Steve VA3TPS**
Net Manager: **Steve VA3TPS**
Presentation Coordinator: **Vacant**
RAC Representative: **Ken VE3RMK**

Repeaters

2m VHF FM Repeater – VE3OSH

Frequency: 147.120 MHz
Input Tone: 156.7 Hz
Input Offset: +600 kHz

70cm UHF Fusion/FM Repeater – VE3NAA

Frequency: 443.000 MHz
Input Tone: 136.5
Input Offset: +5 MHz

70cm UHF DMR Repeater – VE3LBN

Frequency: 443.9875 MHz
Colour Code: 3
Input Offset: +5 MHz
DMR ID: 302340

APRS iGate – VE3OSH

Frequency: 144.390 MHz

Tuesday Night Rag Chew

The club's weekly Tuesday Night Rag Chew starts at 7:00 pm. Our current net controllers are: **Aldo VA3AG**, **Grant VA3KJI**, **Derek VE3TKE**, **Quinton VA3NLM** and **Neil VA3NH**. Also **Nick VA3NPW** has offered to be a spare and fill in once in a while.

This is not a formal net but rather a lively round table. Some can only stick around for a few minutes while others are there from start to finish. We never know what

Website – ve3osh.com



the topic de jour will be but someone always comes up with something interesting. So, if you are available between 1900 and 2000 hrs on Tuesday's pop onto VE3OSH and join the conversation.

A big thank you to all our Net control operators for stepping up!!

If anyone would like to give Net control a try one week, let me know and we will fit you in as a guest net control.

Wednesday Night Virtual Parking Lot

The club has a weekly Virtual Parking Lot (VPL) meeting on zoom starting Wednesday night at 7:00 pm for members and guests. Everyone is welcome to attend. On the third Wednesday night the club has it's member meeting on zoom first and after the meeting is finished we have our virtual parking lot for those who are still on-line.

If you would like to attend our weekly VPL send an email to **Derek VE3TKE** at VE3TKE@gmail.com. Our club Secretary **Neil VA3NH** will be sending out the zoom link prior to the Wednesday meeting time. It has actually has been quite a success as more people can show up, due to distance or schedules, and yet we can still do show & tells by simply sharing our screens. It is not uncommon to have 20 to 25 participants but we can easily handle more. So, quit complaining about being bored and hop on the Virtual Parking Lot also remember that you can also ask questions of the group as well.

At our zoom meetings we have Amateurs from around the globe.

So, try to remember Wednesday nights and drop by our Zoom VPL and say hello and see who is visiting from around the globe. It starts around 7:00 pm and lasts until the last die-hard leaves but you can pop in anytime and say hello and stay as long or short as you want.

White Feather Fun!

Some of the club members meet up on Saturday morning at **White Feather Country Store**. So, if you need your fix of a steamy hot beverage, as well as a hot fritter, pop up to **White Feather Country Store**, which opens at 8:30 am, and

join the gang in the south east corner of the parking lot. Make sure to bring a lawn chair as we sit outside in the parking lot even when it's cold or raining. Just give a shout on the repeater between 8:00 and 8:20 to see if anyone is heading up that way and come and join us. **White Feather Country Store** is located at the corner of Simcoe St and Raglan Rd in Raglan, just south of our repeater site.



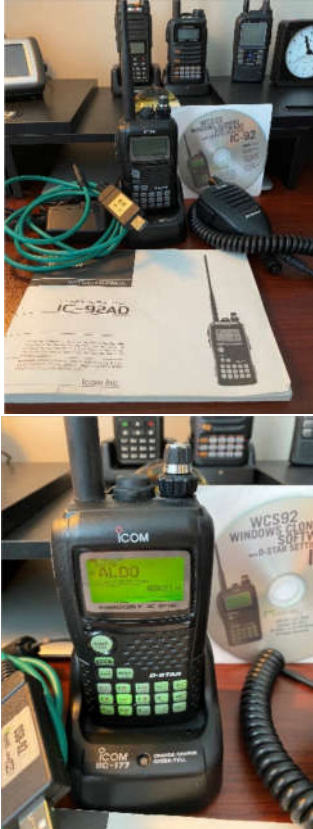
Email – info@ve3osh.com

Swap Shop

For Sale

1. Icom IC-92AD Dual Band D-Star Transceiver.
2. Icom HM-175 GPS Speaker Microphone
3. Icom BC-177 Charging dock with Icom BC-123 SA Charger
4. Icom IC_92 AD Instruction Manual
5. RT Systems Windows Cloning Software with RT Systems USB-92 USB cable

All are in good working order. **\$350**



Ken Fitzgerald, VA3KJF at webhog@me.com....905-435-6311

If you have items for sale or if you have items that are free for the pick-up, feel free to list them here in the club swap shop.

CANOE THE NONQUON

Report by **Neil - VA3NH**

Photos by **Joe - VE3VGJ**

Beautiful summer weather on Saturday June 1 made it a great day for the 54th annual Canoe the Nonquon boat race in Port Perry. NSARC had been asked by the organizer, Scugog Shores Museum, to provide safety communications for the event.

Volunteers assembled at 6:00 AM in Palmer Park in Port Perry on the shore of Lake Scugog. This was the race's finish line, where Derek VE3TKE, Lex VE3LEX and Jerry VA3DQO worked Net Control. Our club's 2 meter repeater VE3OSH lacks the range to cover this race, so our friend Dave VA3NSC from the Central Ontario ARC graciously lent us the use of his UHF repeater VA3PPI, located on Scugog Island.

Our volunteers then dispersed to four additional checkpoints along the race route. The starting line, out in the countryside on the Nonquon River southwest of Seagrave, was operated by Peter VA3PKM, Nick VA3NPW and our club's youngest

member Payton VA3PYN. From there, craft portaged over a pesky beaver dam that had mysteriously appeared overnight, and carried on to a second checkpoint in the village of Seagrave, where Martha VA3SBD and Ron VA3RBP kept track of which craft had safely made it through.

Robinglade Park near the mouth of the Nonquon River at Lake Scugog was the third checkpoint en route, and the finish line for contestants who had registered for the "River Only" part of the race. Grant VA3KJI, Greta SWL and Cam VE3IGX kept careful account of which boats pulled out at that checkpoint, so that Net Control and race officials would know which contestants had pressed on into Lake Scugog for the challenging run south on open water to Port Perry, in order to complete the entire 25 km course.

The Westshore Marina, about half way to town, was the "early exit" point for exhausted contestants who realized they had bitten off more than they could chew. Doug VA3DCE and Jan VA3TCN noted which craft cleared this fourth checkpoint, and they passed the info to Net Control.

This was critical information. It became apparent that two canoes that had already passed the marina were well overdue at the finish line in Port Perry. The maritime unit of the Port Perry Fire Department found one of the boats, and towed it to the finish line. Our own Maritime Mobile unit, Bob VE3HIX/MM, sped out to find the other missing canoe in his power boat. Bob found a woman and her son struggling against a stubborn headwind that had blown up in the early afternoon. The pair were grateful to finish the last few km of their journey in Bob's comfortable speedboat with their empty canoe safely in tow.

Peter VA3PSU and Mrs. Schmidt served as our drivers, patiently waiting for any unforeseen emergency, and taking a BBQ lunch provided by the organizers to NSARC volunteers at checkpoints that were still in use at lunch time. Neil VA3NH was club's organizer and a backup for the event.

Organizers said the 96 craft registered this year was the biggest number in recent memory. The many categories of prizes included both the shorter "River Only" race and the full course. There were prizes for singles, doubles, men, women, mixed crew, canoes, kayaks -- and one muscular Superman who completed the entire 25 km race standing on a paddleboard!

Great day, and good fun for all. The Scugog Shores Museum organizers of the event thanked NSARC at the awards ceremony; and said, "We hope to see you next year."





The NSARC Summer Kick-off BBQ on June 19 was another success with lots of food and members in attendance. Many thanks to our organizers and the chef's!

Many Thanks to **Robert VE3IRB** for the photo's.





Field Day at Purple Woods – June 22 – 23, 2024

Written by Derek Christian – VE3TKE

Field Day 2024 was a great success. We had 14 people out early in the morning to help everyone setup for the two day event at Purple Woods. We had 7 stations setup with their tents or trailers. There was Sam and Louise with their trailer, Jan with his tent, Cam with his trailer, Nick and Payton with a tent, Clint with his tent, Robert had his tent, Blair and Daren with their tent trailer and Martha who was the cook this year setup her Gazebo across from Blair and Daren's tent trailer. Our club President Derek was there during both days to assist where possible. We had a number of visitors show up during the weekend such as Doug, Richard, Gerard, Quinton, Stephen and Carolyn. It was amusing how a number of people show up just as the food that Martha was cooking was being served.

A few people were able to reach a few contacts before the bands tanked.

Neil sent out numerous emails as a press release for our Field Day. It resulted in having two contacts show up during the event. The first was Mr. Jamil Javani, Member of Parliament for Durham with his communication advisor Kristina Bandzoski. The second contact was Mr. Harold Wright, Councillor Ward 4 from the Township of Scugog.

It was great to see the memorial that Cam and Nick made for John Smith VE3KZT who was one of our club members. Cam had a display in his trailer with pictures of John in action as well as some of his I believe 104 awards that John received working the air waves most were from POTA which John loved.





Lets not forget the other club members that were working at home for this event. There was Laird, Bob and Aldo all contributing their contacts to the club.

Aquino Tank Weekend – July 26 – 28, 2024

Written by Laird VE3LKS



This year the North Shore ARC was once again invited to be part of the Canadian Tank Museum's "Aquino Tank Weekend". This is our fourth year participating in this event and all I can say is this is one of the highlights of the year.

Since we have done this event several times now we have the planning down to a science and so it is fairly stress free to organize. The event took place the weekend of July 26 through 28 and we started planning after Field Day and put the finishing touches on it with a couple of Zoom meetings in July.



We arrived bright and early, well around 0800, on Friday, did a quick site evaluation and got to work setting up shelters and radio stations. Once again the Tank Museum placed the WWII communications vehicle, which was made right here in Oshawa at GM and rolled off the production line with serial number 00001, on our site to add to the display. In short time everything was in place and we started calling "CQ POTA from CA-5535". Unfortunately, the band conditions were not very favorable due to all the solar activity but we managed to have a fun time during those three days. What do you know, FT8 saved the day as most of our contacts were made using that mode. We also made some 2m simplex contacts over the three days so that helped increase the fun too. "Tankfully" the weather was beautiful the entire weekend.

As usual, **Bob VE3HIX** set up a CW display and that was quite a draw for people sauntering by. Everyone there also took time to answer questions from the public and to explain what Amateur Radio was all about. We also answered questions from the public about the WWII comms vehicle.

Not all the time was spent at our location playing radio. We took turns wandering about the grounds taking in all the other displays that were there as well as some of the live events at the tank arena including a simulation of the battle at Aquino. So, it wasn't all work and everyone made sure that everyone else had a chance to enjoy the show. I think lots of fun was had by everyone and we even got to do a live run to the military-style first aid station that was setup onsite. One of our team had a slight mishap that caused red fluid to run down their leg. Luckily it ended up being a minor event albeit maybe with some major ego bruising as another member of our team captured the incident on film. All I am going to say is that **Robert VE3IRB** had better keep an eye on his camera if **Joe VE3VGJ** is nearby!



Of special note **Louise VA3LLF** made her very first contact on the radio during Aquino. I had the honour of being her first contact! She was a bit mic shy at first but I think we may have created a problem for her hubby, **Sam VA3YYC**, as I don't think he is going to be getting much of an opportunity to use the PTT button on their radio any more.

We also had a new member join the club. **Chad VE3NGN** was visiting Tank Weekend all the way from Ottawa. He saw the Amateur Radio setup and popped over to say hi. He ended up staying with us for quite some time, liked what we were doing as a club, and signed up right there on the spot. Thankfully **Thomas VE3PDK**, our Membership Director, and **Bob VE3HIX**, our Treasurer, were on-site and we got Chad all straightened away.



Thomas VE3PDK and Chad VE3NGN

to make this event a resounding success and alleviate the stress for this organizer.

Bob VE3HIX, Thomas VE3PDK, Brian VE3IK, Grant VA3KJI, Derek VE3TKE, Louise VA3LLD, Sam VA3YYC, Daren VE3NMD, Nick VE3NPW, Joe VE3VGJ and Bob VE3IRB.



A lot of pics have been put on our Facebook page – VE3OSH North Shore ARC – as well as on our website at <https://www.ve3osh.com/portfolio/aquino-tank-weekend-2024/>. Be patient as there is close to 300 pics and it takes a bit of time to load. Click on the image to get the full sized version and then use the arrows to scroll through.

Looking forward to doing this again next year and I hope the team is up to joining in again.

73 de Laird VE3LKS

Fox Hunt Training – August 15th, 2024

By: Derek Christian VE3TKE

On Thursday night August 15th Brian VE3IK and I held our first Fox Hunt Training session. A number of members and guests attended this event being held at Purple Woods Conservation area. We all met in the parking lot. There was a discussion on what is a Fox Hunt and what equipment is required. I also showed the group the equipment that the club has for Fox Hunting to minimize the cost to members wishing to participate in Fox Hunting. Some members already have the required equipment. I also showed the group two different Tape Measure antennas that I made for Fox Hunting. One for use with a “Sniffer” type of receiver and the other for use with handheld radio and a signal attenuator.

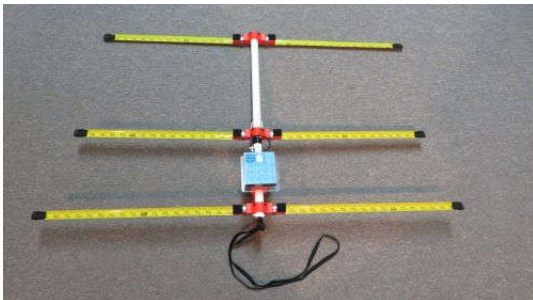


Figure 1: Sniffer Style of Fox Hunt Antenna

Numerous times we had ex-military radio operators, from both Canada and the USA, stop by our location and talk about their time in the service and what equipment they used. Some of the older vets were quite impressed with how much radio has changed even in the last 20 years.

An event like this does not go off so well without a great team. The following, in no particular order, are the operators that helped

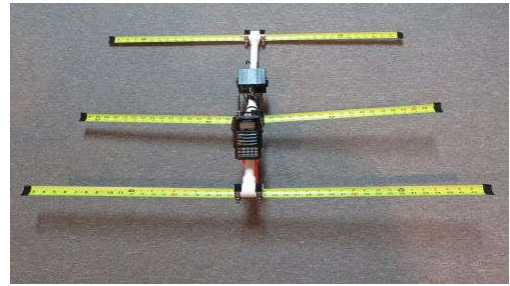


Figure 2: Attenuator Style of Fox Hunt Antenna

Brian VE3IK then discussed the long range Fox Hunt transmitter that he made for the club, see picture below.



Figure 3: Long Range Fox Hunt Transmitter

Brian then hid one of the club’s fox transmitter in the nearby trees and we had people try and find the transmitter. A few people found the transmitter while others had some difficulty. I guess we need some additional training sessions.

I also planned an actual Fox Hunt to be held at Long Sault Conservation area on August 25, 2024 but due to the lack of response I had to cancel it. I will try to schedule the Fox Hunt again after we have one or more additional training sessions.

If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy of the Tape Measure specifications to make their own, let me know by email and I will send you a copy.

Station of the Month

I am surprised that more members do not share their Ham Shack setup and antenna and/or tower pictures. We would like to see the big setup’s as well as the basic setup’s. We also would like mobile setup’s. All are welcome. We have a bunch of new ham’s attending our meetings and they would like to see and get some ideas on how they should make their setup.

Neil VA3NH

At Neil's place, VA3NH, the expression "shack-in-a-box" has a distinctly old school meaning. No modern rig with pull down menus, built-in digital capability and HF / VHF all in one box. Neil's rebuilt, vintage Kenwood TS850S, an Icom IC2400 for VHF/UHF, and the two SignalLinks that bring these two rigs into the digital age are literally in a box -- an old timey roll top desk. All but the big screen on top, anyway!



If you would like to share your setup send your pictures and info to Steve VA3TPS at va3tps@outlook.com

Editor's Note

Many thanks to **Neil VA3NH** for his articles and **Joe VE3VGJ** for the pictures.

Don't forget I am looking for articles for the bulletin or any special events or information Ham Radio related.

Upcoming Events

NSARC Fall BBQ – September 18, 2024

The annual fall BBQ event will be held at Purple Woods Conservation Area located at 38 Coates Road in north Oshawa. We are looking for a food coordinator for this event. If you are interested email Derek and let him know.

Hike or Bike for Marigold Hospice Care – September 22, 2024

Written by Derek Christian VE3TKE

The club now has a new event. This may also be an annual event for the club if we do well this year. We were contacted by the event coordinator to provide communications at this years event. I have already met with the event executive committee to confirm our participation this year. The club will provide communications for the 30k and 60k Bike portion of the event. I have already sent out an email to all members to see who would be interested in participating in this event. A good number of members responded that they are interested.

The 60k bike portion of the event starts in Newcastle and rides out to Port Hope then returns to Newcastle. The 30K bike portion also start in Newcastle but stays within Newcastle. There is a BBQ at the end of the ride.

On Wednesday August 14 I requested a small group of people to check and test communications for this event as we have not done this event before. Prior to the test day, Randy VE3RWN setup a Topographical map to determine the best location to use his mobile repeater, based upon the terrain. Yes, a mobile repeater.

On Aug 14th Derek VE3TKE, Laird VE3LKS, Joe VE3VGJ, Randy VE3RWN and Ross VE3RQN (Randy's Father) traveled to the site. Randy and his father setup the mobile repeater as you can see in the picture.



Derek and Laird were setup at the Net Control location and Joe VE3VGJ drove the entire route to Port Hope and back. Randy and Ross stayed with the repeater. With this mobile repeater, Laird and I were able to communicate with Joe using a handheld radio. Of course we will setup a small mast with an VHF antenna at the top at the Net Control location and use a mobile radio for the event.

The day finished with everyone amazed with the ability to fully communicate over the full route which is over 31 Km's. Many thanks to Randy VE3RWN for allowing the club to use his mobile VHF repeater for this event.

From the President

Let me start off with the Tower replacement project. I am sorry to say that we have had no progress. I did talk with the tower project coordinator who advised that there are working on getting the tower drawings stamped by a RF engineer. But no further details or timeline was mentioned. I also sent an email about the weeds growing under the temporary tower to see if I could get them to cut the weeds and then spray with weed killer so the weeds don't grow back. The tower is placed on the north west corner of the parking lot, installed on a crushed stone base but you cannot tell that at this point. Here is the picture that was sent.



The Allstar project is also ongoing. We had it working and installed it at the repeater site for some ongoing testing. It lasted about one day before it toasted our spare repeater. We quickly reconnected our main VHF repeater back into service.

Daren VE3NMD is currently testing to see if/when our spare repeater can be fixed.

The plan is to connect Daren's own repeater that he has to the Allstar system to see if our spare repeater was the problem. The spare repeater has had previous problems when connected to external controllers, I was advised.

We also received an Allstar cable and repeater controller module from the Peterborough Amateur Radio Club (PARC) that they had connected to a previous Allstar system which was working. A big thanks go out to the PARC group for providing us this cable and for Nick for picking up this cable.

Many hours has been spent to date by Clint VA3KDK, Daren VE3NMD, Lex VE3LEX and Quinton VA3NLM and recently Nick VA3NPW working on the Allstar system.

We first started working on the new V3 of Allstar but found a few problems so we are back to the previous version that has been working for many clubs. I wish to thank the Repeater group for all of the time and effort to date working on this project.

Hopefully, we will have it completed and installed soon. When it is installed, we will have documentation on how our members will be able to use this system.

I would like to put out a request for someone to take on the monthly task of being the club's "Presentation Coordinator". John VE3KZT who passed away took on this task and did a great job of getting people either club members or external guests to provide our monthly presentations at our member meetings. If you are interested, let me know by email it will be greatly appreciated.

Also, as many of you know our club Treasurer Bob VE3HIX has requested that someone else takes over his position. Bob has been the club Treasurer for many years now and would like a break. Bob has graciously advised that he will even train the new club member on the duties of the treasurer so that the transition is smooth. We are very thankful that Bob continues as our Treasurer while we wait for someone to take over. If you are interested in taking on this position, let me know by email.

Derek VE3TKE